

Pay: \$18.00 - \$20.00 per hour

Job description:

The Farm & Nature Discovery School at The Center provides children ages 3 through 6 the unique opportunity to attend school on a 60-acre farm. Our highly qualified and trained teachers guide our students to learn through exploration of their natural environment. Environmental education is integrated with a play based curriculum, reaching toward developmentally appropriate milestones set forth by the state of Illinois. We are looking for an experienced lead teacher to join our faculty for the 2026-2027 school year. The age groups will be for 3-5 year old children. The shift would be part time in the mornings from about 8:15 AM - 12:15 PM on Monday/Wednesday/Friday, as well as T/Th from 8:15 AM – 3:30 PM. We operate September to May. Position starts mid-August for planning, training, and prepping reasons.

We provide a fun, unique work environment where you can genuinely be excited to come to work each day. You can research our school on our website at <https://thecenterpalos.org/school/> or follow us on Instagram and Facebook. Please email us your resume, 3 professional references, and cover letter to Danielle Bell at FarmandNature@thecenterpalos.org.

Teacher Qualifications:

- Minimum of an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education or related field is Preferred,
- **OR** 60 semester (90 quarter hours) of credits from an accredited college or university with six semester (nine quarter) hours in courses related directly to child care and/or child development, from birth to age six;
- **OR** 1 year of child development experience in a licensed child care center and 30 semester hours/45 quarter hours of credits from an accredited college or university with six semester (nine quarter) hours in courses related directly to child care and/or child development, from birth to age six;
- **OR** Completion of credentialing programs approved by the Department in accordance with Appendix G of Rules 407.
- Must have Lead Teacher experience (2+ years)
- Must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 (vaccination card required for file).
- A current physical form with proof of MMR and TDap vaccines, as well as a negative TB test. A form will be provided upon hire date.
- CPR/First Aid certification is a plus.
- Must be reliable, flexible, and trust worthy.
- Must have strong communication skills, be organized, and be able to multi-task.
- Must have a positive demeanor, love the outdoors, and be a team player.

Job Responsibilities include:

- Plan, prepare, and implement developmentally appropriate activities that align with Illinois Early Learning Standards while scaffolding lessons to fit different styles of learning and developmental needs.
- Provide a classroom space that is clean, organized, and welcoming so all children feel comfortable coming to school each day to learn and explore.
- Manage your classroom in a way that provides children with structure, stability, and consistency.
- Complete observations, assessments, and portfolios for each child in a way that benefits their learning experience.
- Maintain the supervision, wellbeing, and safety of all students.
- Build strong, trusting, and positive relationships with families through positive communication.
- Maintain 15 annual in-service hours approved by DCFS.
- Be aware of and comply with all DCFS licensing rules.

Education:

- Bachelor's (Preferred)

Experience:

- Childcare: 2 years (Required)
- Classroom experience: 2 years (Required)
- Classroom management: 2 years (Required)
- Experience working with students: 2 years (Required)

Work Location: In person at 12700 Southwest Highway Palos Park, IL 60464